(c) whether the Fourth Pay Commission has made any recommendation in this regard; if so what are the details thereof; and

(d) what follow-up action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Demands of handloom weavers from Andhra Pradesh

1045. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of weavers from Andhra Pradesh met the Prime Minister on the 5th April, 1989 and pleaded for extending some concessions to them and also pleaded for extending some welfare measures for them; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

Statement

The memorandum relates *inter alia* to formulation of a textile policy which could ensure full and continuous employment with reasonable living wages to handloom weavers, preserve, protect and promote the handloom industry, save it from the menace of mush-room growth of powerlooms, ensure supply of yarn at reasonable prices etc.

The Textile Policy of 1985 has enunciated a number of steps to preserve the unique role of handlooms and also to ensure higher earnings for the handlooms weavers. Action has been taken on the steps enunciated in the Textile Policy, *viz.*, development of handlooms through cooperatives and corporations, modernisation of looms, supply of inputs through NHDC, production of mixed and blended fabrics under Susman Cloth Scheme, reservation of 22 items for exclusive; production by handlooms, design support and technological inputs to improve the competitiveness of handloom products, implementation of Thrift Fund Scheme and Workshed-*cum*-Housing Scheme, etc. In addiiton, certain fiscal concessions are also extended to the handloom sector to enable it to compete with the products of mills and powerlooms. The Central Government is also implementing a package of schemes for the development of handloom sector in all the States.

Grievances of Tobacco Growers

1046. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to redress the grievances of tobacco growers;

(b) what measures are being taken to maintain stability in the prices of tobacco;

(c) whether Government propose to consult farmers in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The grievances of tobacco growers mainly re-